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Sent: 2/25/2019 12:30:16 PM

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(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=591eb15a268249dda0c05a7451f765c3-Dunlap, Dav]

Subject: The Morning Headlines from InsideEPA.com -- February 25, 2019

REDEFINING EPA: Overhauling an agency and its mission -- Complete coverage

February 25, 2019

Latest News

Modeling Tool Could Aid Quest For Data On Scope Of Narrower CWA Rule

A new water modeling tool could aid states and others in the quest to quantify the number of waterbodies that would be subject to EPA's proposed narrower Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction rule, a goal that the agency

has downplayed as impractical or even impossible to quantify given its tight timeline for finalizing the morelimited rule.

Oklahoma Seeks District Court Order To End CWA Jurisdiction Patchwork

Oklahoma and national business groups are pressing a federal district judge to limit or end the nationwide patchwork of Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction policies resulting from the revival of the Obama-era jurisdiction rule, arguing that the state has been forced to impose permits to protect "ephemeral" streams they say should be exempt from the law.

FERC Considers Direct GHGs For LNG Projects, Omits Broader Analysis

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in a new order says it must consider the direct greenhouse gas emissions from liquified natural gas (LNG) export projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but that it need not assess broader upstream and downstream GHG emissions as it must do for certain gas pipelines.

As EPA Weighs Changes, EDF Says New Chemical Approvals Fail Workers

Environmentalists are charging that the Trump administration's process for approving new chemicals under the recently revised toxics law without restrictions fails to adequately address risks to workers, building on long-standing opposition to the new chemicals review process as Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler has pledged revisions.

EPA Argues States Lack Standing To Challenge Landfill Methane Rule Delay

EPA is arguing that California and other states lack standing to sue over its delay in implementing an Obama-era landfill methane rule and thus their suit must be dismissed, disputing that the states in the case are entitled to the "special solicitude" the Supreme Court granted states on climate change in its landmark *Massachusetts v. EPA* decision.

Critics Warn DOE Plan To Redefine Nuclear Waste Could Undercut Cleanups

States, environmentalists and other critics say that the Energy Department's (DOE) plan to revise its definition of high-level radioactive waste (HLW) is unlawful and would allow the department to bypass cleanup mandates at major contaminated sites, though local officials are welcoming the plan, saying it will lower disposal costs and speed cleanups.

Daily Feed

ATSDR selects sites for PFAS exposure studies

The studies "will serve as a foundation for future studies evaluating the impact of PFAS exposure on human health," ATSDR says.

D.C. Circuit sets argument in suit over scrapped 'once in' air toxics policy

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear oral argument April 1 on the EPA's decision to end the long-running once in. always in air toxics policy.

Regional board maintains Ohio River water quality standards

A regional water regulatory body has halted industry-backed plans to eliminate its authority to set water quality standards for the Ohio River.

Ewire: Wehrum plotted EPA deregulatory push as UARG lawyer

In today's Ewire: Details are emerging of a campaign to target a host of EPA air and climate rules by the Utility Air Regulatory Group, represented by EPA air chief Bill Wehrum before he joined the agency.

D.C. Circuit dismisses NEPA pipeline claim

One consulting firm warns that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may face worse odds of success in two upcoming NEPA-related challenges to its gas pipeline approvals.

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